

RESOLUTION

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, GLADES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA REGARDING THE PROCUREMENT OF PROPERTIES INCLUDING U. S. SUGAR CORPORATION'S LANDS, BY GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, INCLUDING THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, the above parties of Glades County are concerned about the lack of information, planning assumptions and detailed data necessary for directing our County, City and educational planning; and

WHEREAS, all of the above mentioned local government entities need information concerning the acquisition of land in Glades County by other government entities as quickly as it is available so that the local government entities can properly plan and provide government services for Glades County residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Glades County is recognized as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern; and

WHEREAS, better cooperation and collaboration between government agencies regarding the acquisition and future use of land in Glades County by tax exempt government entities is necessary to better serve our citizens; and

WHEREAS, U. S. Sugar Corporation owns approximately 5,580 acres of land in Glades County; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the reduction in annual general ad valorem tax revenue and tangible personal property tax revenue received by Glades County will be \$181,432.68 per year as a result of the removal of over 5,580 acres from Glades County's tax rolls; and

WHEREAS, the local community should be represented in the planning and land acquisition process of other government entities especially in the near future; and

WHEREAS, surplus property located in Glades County that is not needed by government entities, including South Florida Water Management District, should and must be returned to the agricultural community for production to avoid unintended consequences; and

WHEREAS, the railroad that serves the community must be funded and upgraded as currently planned for the local economic viability regardless of whether U. S. Sugar Corporation's lands are purchased by a government entity; and

WHEREAS, economic development in Glades County must be financially supported by the State of Florida and other government entities that purchase land in Glades County so that the above named local government entities are able to assist affected Glades County residents who require assistance because of the loss of jobs resulting from the purchase of lands in Glades County by government entities including the purchase of U. S. Sugar Corporation's lands by South Florida Water Management District; and

WHEREAS, the Glades County School District has an enrollment of 1,200 students in grades K-12 and one charter school with an enrollment of 150 students K-5; and

WHEREAS, the Glades County School District is dependent upon United States Sugar Corporation's direct and indirect employment opportunities for the parents of the school district's 1,200 K-12 students; and

WHEREAS, the two major funding sources for the education of students enrolled in the Glades County School District are "State Effort" and "Required Local Effort"; and

WHEREAS, the total budget for the Glades County School District is determined by the number of students enrolled; and

WHEREAS, the depth of academic curriculum in the Glades County School District is determined by the total number of students enrolled; and

WHEREAS, the loss of 120 students creates a 10% revenue reduction of the total budget for the Glades County School District; and

WHEREAS, the budget of the Glades County School District has been greatly reduced due to revenue shortfalls at the state level, declining property values at the local level and declining student enrollment; and

WHEREAS, agriculture positively affects not only the culture of our communities but also our students, generations past and future; and

WHEREAS, the sustainability of agriculture in our area and school system is paramount to our survival, both culturally and economically; and

WHEREAS, the sale of United States Sugar Corporation to South Florida Water Management District will eliminate hundreds of jobs causing the displacement of many families which will result in considerably higher declining student enrollment in Glades County School District and proportionate loss of School District revenue which will intensify the financial and academic hardships already being experienced in Glades County School District.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Glades County Board of County Commissioners, the Glades County School District, and the City of Moore Haven, Florida that:

All further planning and discussions by government entities related to the acquisition of lands in Glades County and in surrounding counties should be conveyed to and should include representatives of Glades County, the Glades County School District and the City of Moore Haven so that the above named local government entities can participate and collaborate in the successful planning and implementation of land purchases by government entities which may impact the above named local government entities and the residents of Glades County.

The financial impact of any land acquisitions by any government entities on the residents of Glades County and on the above named government entities should be made part of any consideration and planning of any purchase of lands by a government entity; and further, the mitigation of any adverse financial impacts on the

the residents of Glades County and the above named government entities should be considered and made a part of any decision making regarding the purchase of lands, including the U. S. Sugar Corporation land currently being considered, and any future land acquisitions.

In recognition of the adoption by the 2008 Legislature of the Florida Forever Law, any future land acquisition by a government entity in Glades County shall result in payment of revenue to the above named local government entities as described in the Florida Forever Law, Laws of Florida 2008-229, as adopted by the 2008 Florida Legislature, regardless of the funding sources of the payment.

Approved and duly adopted unanimously as Resolution 2008-11 by the Glades County Board of County Commissioners, this 8th day of July, 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____
Paul Beck, Chairman

ATTEST:

Joe Flint, Clerk

Approved and duly adopted as Resolution _____ by the City of Moore Haven, Florida, this _____ day of July, 2008.

Bret Whidden, Mayor
City of Moore Haven

Approved and duly adopted as Resolution _____ by the Glades County School District, this _____ day of July, 2008.

Mike Pressley, Chairman
Glades County School District